

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00

DHA-02 ORM-02 /020 W

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R 030637Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 888

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, PINS, BU (COLLINS, EMILIA MATEEVA)

SUBJECT: DIVIDED FAMILIES - COLLINS CASE

REF: (A) SOFIA 0325; (B) SOFIA 0275; (C) SOFIA 2815;  
(D) SOFIA 2675; (E) SOFIA 2596.

1. PK HAS NOW BEEN MORE THAN THREE WEEKS SINCE AMBASSADOR  
MADE THE MOST RECENT REPRESENTATION IN THE COLLINS CASE  
(REF A), AND WE HAVE AS YET HAD NO RESPONSE FROM THE  
GOB. AS REPORTED IN REFTELS, THIS CASE HAS BEEN  
PRESENTED TO THE GOB ON FIVE SEPARATE OCCASIONS  
SINCE LAST NOVEMBER:

A. EMBASSY'S NOTE NO. 322 PRESENTED BY DCM TO  
MFA/CONSULAR DEPARTMENT NOVEMBER 26, 1975.

B. AMBASSADOR'S DISCUSSIONS WITH FM MLADENOV  
DECEMBER 6 AND 29, 1975.

C. MR. ANDREWS' REPRESENTATIONS TO BULGARIAN  
EMBASSY DCM KONSTANTINOV JANUARY 14, 1976.

D. AMBASSADOR'S DISCUSSION WITH DEPUTY FM  
ZAKHARIEVA FEBRUARY 6, 1976.

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2. AS RECOMMENDED IN REFTEL A, WE FEEL THAT THE NEXT

APPROPRIATE STEP WOULD BE FOR A SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TO SUMMON AMBASSADOR POPOV TO IMPRESS UPON THE GOB THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH WE VIEW THE SITUATION, AND OUR DISPLEASURE THAT OUR REPRESENTATIONS HAVE NOT EVEN BEEN DIGNIFIED BY A REPLY.

3. TO RECAPITULATE THE BASIC FACTS OF THE CASE:  
AMERICAN CITIZEN RICHARD COLLINS IS AN AMERICAN PROFESSOR CURRENTLY ATTACHED TO A UNIVERSITY IN PARIS. ON JANUARY 18, 1975 HE MARRIED BULGARIAN CITIZEN EMILIA MATEEVA IN BULGARIA WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES. MRS. COLLINS HOLDS A CANDIDATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE (EQUIVALENT TO A PH.D.) IN MATHEMATICS AND HAD DONE GRADUATE STUDIES IN THE USSR. SHE THEREFORE HAD AN OBLIGATION TO WORK IN BULGARIA FOR A SPECIFIED PERIOD OF TIME. THIS OBLIGATION WAS FULFILLED IN OCTOBER OF 1975, AND MRS. COLLINS HAS A DOCUMENT FROM THE BULGARIAN MINISTRY OF LABOR AND SOCIAL WELFARE (NO. IV-1-8577 DATED SEPTEMBER 20, 1975) ATTESTING THAT SHE HAS FULFILLED THE OBLIGATION. EMBASSY HAS COPY OF THE DOCUMENT. IN OCTOBER 1975, MRS. COLLINS APPLIED TO THE BULGARIANS MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS (MIA) FOR A PASSPORT AND EXIT PERMISSION TO TRAVEL TO JOIN HER HUSBAND IN PARIS. SHE WAS ISSUED A PASSPORT AND EXIT PERMIT NUMBER 7222 ON OCTOBER 10, 1975. ON OCTOBER 27, 1975 MRS. COLLINS APPLIED TO THE CONSULAR DEPARTMENT OF MFA FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING THE NECESSARY VISAS FOR HER TRAVEL. SHE SUBSEQUENTLY DETERMINED THAT THE FRENCH EMBASSY WAS PREPARED TO ISSUE HER AN APPROPRIATE FRENCH VISA ON PRESENTATION OF HER PASSPORT. ON NOVEMBER 14, 1975, MRS. COLLINS WAS ADVISED BY THE CONSULAR DEPARTMENT THAT THE PASSPORT HAD BEEN RECALLED BY THE MIA, AND ON NOVEMBER 10, 1975 WAS TOLD WITHOUT EXPLANATION THAT THE PASSPORT AND EXIT PERMISSION HAD BEEN REVOKED.

4. IN OUR DEMARCHES TO THE GOB IN THIS CASE WE HAVE STRESSED THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. MRS. COLLINS HAS FULFILLED HER OBLIGATIONS  
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TO THE GOB INCURRED BY HER ADVANCED TRAINING, AS EVIDENCED BY BOTH THE CERTIFICATE GIVEN HER BY THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND BY THE FACT THAT SHE WAS ISSUED BOTH PASSPORT AND EXIT VISA BY THE MIA.

B. MRS. COLLINS HAS COMPLIED WITH ALL GOB REGULATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES IN HER

MARRIAGE TO RICHARD COLLINS AND IN HER APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO JOIN HIM IN PARIS. IN CONSIDERING HER APPLICATION TO MARRY A FOREIGNER THE GOB CERTAINLY REALIZED THAT SHE WOULD EVENTUALLY WISH TO JOIN HER HUSBAND OUTSIDE BULGARIA, AND MUST HAVE, AT THAT TIME, INTENDED TO GRANT HER SUCH PERMISSION. TO DO SO WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH PRECEDENT FOLLOWED IN SIMILAR CASES AND WITH HUMANE CONSIDERATIONS.

C. UPON RECEIPT OF HER PASSPORT AND EXIT VISA, MRS. COLLINS, NATURALLY ASSUMING THAT SHE WOULD BE ALLOWED TO JOIN HER HUSBAND, MADE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS TO DO SO INCLUDING GIVING UP HER JOB AND LIQUIDATING HER ASSETS IN BULGARIA. THE SUBSEQUENT SUDDEN AND UNEXPLAINED REVOCATION OF HER PERMISSION TO TRAVEL HAS CAUSED EXTREME FINANCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS AND BORDERS ON INHUMANE TREATMENT.

D. THE FINAL ACT OF HELSINKI, IN ITS LANGUAGE ON FAMILY REUNIFICATION, REQUIRES THE SIGNATORIES TO "DEAL IN A POSITIVE AND HUMANITARIAN SPIRIT WITH THE APPLICATIONS OF PERSONS WHO WISH TO BE REUNITED WITH MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES" AND CALLS ON SIGNATORIES TO APPLY THESE PROVISIONS IN CASES OF MARRIED COUPLES FROM DIFFERENT PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES.

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